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Keep Young Chicks Growing



Starting at the Bottom to Learn the Chicken Business.

Every poultry raiser wants his chicks to grow fast whether he plans to get them on an early market or to develop profitable layers. Early hatching is 1 of the 1st steps in this direction, but the next, which is of equal importance, is proper feeding. Undoubtedly chickens will grow faster when fed 2 times than when fed only 1 time daily, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, but it should be borne in mind that more harm can be done to the young chicks by over-feeding than by under-feeding. Young chickens should be fed not more than barely enough to satisfy their appetites and to keep them exercising, except at the evening or last meal, when they should be given all they care to eat. Greater care must be exercised not to overfeed young chickens that are confined than those that have free range, as leg weakness is likely to result.

The Chicks First Meals

Inexperienced poultry raisers are tempted to feed chicks immediately after they are hatched, but this should not be done. No feed should be given before the chicks are 26 or 48 hours old. During the 1st week feed them stale bread, pinhead oatmeal, rolled oats, hard-boiled eggs, or Johnny-cake. Crumbly, but not sloppy mash, made by mixing with milk, are considered valuable. During the 2nd week add cracked wheat, finely cracked corn and hulled oats to the chicks ration. After the chicks are 10 days old a good growing mash, composed of 2 parts by weight of bran, 2 parts of middlings, 1 part corn meal, 1 part low-grade wheat flour or red dog middlings and 16 per cent of beef scrap, may be placed in a hopper and left before them all the time. The mash may be fed either wet or dry; if wet, only enough moisture (either milk or water) should be added to make the feed crumbly. If this moisture is not used a hopper containing bran should be accessible to the chickens at all times. After the chickens are 2 months old they may be fed 4 times daily, with good results. When they are 3 months old 3 feedings a day are enough.

Use Hoppers in Feeding Chicks

As soon as the chickens will eat the whole wheat, cracked corn and other grains—usually in about 5 weeks—the small-sized chick feed can be eliminated. In addition to the above feeds sour milk, skim milk or buttermilk, will hasten the chickens growth. The growing chickens kept on a good range may be given all their feed in a hopper, mixing 2 parts by weight of cracked corn, with 1 part of wheat, or equal parts of cracked corn, wheat and oats in 1 hopper and the dry mash for chickens in another. The beef scrap may be left out of the dry mash and fed in a separate hopper, so that the chickens can eat all of this feed they desire. If the beef scrap is to be fed separately, it is advisable to wait until the chicks are 10 days old, although some poultrymen put the beef scrap before the young chickens at the start without bad results. Chickens confined to small yards should always be supplied with green feed, such as lettuce, sprouted oats, alfalfa or clover, but the best place to raise chickens successfully is on a good range where no extra green feed is required. Where the chickens are kept in small bare yards, fine charcoal, grit, and oyster shell should be kept before them all of the time, and cracked or ground bone may be fed. The bone is not necessary for chickens that have a good range.

HOUSING GROWING CHICKS

Growing chicks should be provided with a house that will give them a place to stay in bad weather and at night. No particular style of house is recommended, but it should be built so that it will provide ample ventilation, dryness, sunlight, freedom from drafts and be so arranged that it can be cleaned easily and frequently. The lumber from piano and dry goods boxes can be used in building such a house, and when covered with ordinary roofing paper so as to keep out the rain, will make desirable quarters. It is suggested that such houses be built on the colony plan, so that they can be moved from place to place, thus providing the chicks with fresh ground to range over. Elevating such a house 6 inches above the ground will help to keep the floor dry by means of the circulation of air, and such space will also provide shade for the chicks. In placing the chicks in their growing house for the 1st time, it is best to confine them for several days by erecting a temporary yard wherein they can run for 6 or 8 days, until

they learn where to return when the fence is removed and they are allowed their liberty. Care should be taken not to crowd the chicks by placing too many in any 1 house. When the chickens cover the greater part of the floor at night, it is an indication that they are too crowded. At such a time they should be thinned out and placed in another house.

COMMERCIAL CHICK FEEDS

When one has only a few chickens, it is less trouble to purchase prepared chick feeds, but where a considerable number are reared, it is sometimes cheaper to buy the finely cracked grains and mix them together. Some chick feeds contain a large quantity of grit and may contain grains of poor quality, so that they should be carefully examined and guaranty as to quality secured before purchase.

SYSTEMS OF FEEDING

There are 2 systems in use for the feeding of fowls, in 1 of which all the feed is given dry and in the other of which 1 or more of the daily feeds consists of a moistened mash. For convenience they may be termed the "dry-feed" and the "mash" system, although in the dry-feed system a dry mash is often fed. Dry feeding is used by many where it is not convenient to make and feed a moistened mash. The greatest advantages to be derived from the dry system are the saving of labor and the lessened danger of bowel trouble resulting from sloppy or soured mashes.

A WOLF HOWL

Comes From the Old Timer Who Hears That California Will Go Dry.

O' "Hardpan Jake," from the head of the lake,
With hair on his breast—that's me,
I've pawed this earth since my day of birth
With a spirit wild an' free.
I've seen the West at its worst an' best,
I've rolled 'em wide an' high,
But I lose my sand and I lay my hand
When Cal-i-for-ny's dry.

What would they do—that roarin' crew—
Them wolves what I used to know,
If they'd hear the news, that we can't have bouse
In this land where th' jag-vines grow?
I reckon they'd shoot any dam' galoot
Who threatened to stop their rye—
But they won't be here, my soul to cheer,
When Cal-i-for-ny's dry.

O' Bob McGill, "Touluame Bill,"
Jim Peets an' o' "Hardtack" Brown,
We was sure some crowd—if you speak it loud—
When we hit the trail for town,
It was fun, or bust, while we spent our dust,
With th' limit th' star-speckled sky—
There'll be no plays like we had them days
When Cal-i-for-ny's dry.

They're the other side of the Great Divide—
My pards of th' days of yore—
An' I'm left forlorn to weep an' mourn
With a heart that's sad an' sore,
I'm o' an' broke, my gun's in soak,
So what can I do but cry,
As I sit an' think, "what can I drink
When Cal-i-for-ny's dry.

Dig me a grave where th' willers wave,
At th' rim of th' lonesome swamp,
Where th' lizards creep an' the tree toads choep
An' th' tuneless bullfrogs romp.
Throw me an' jug that I used to lug
In th' hole an' say "Goodby"—
It's no place here for a pioneer

John M. Harlow, sheriff of Barton county, was shot by a prisoner Monday and died almost instantly. George Owens was in jail at Lamar, being held for federal authorities at St. Louis. Owens called the sheriff to this cell Monday evening after he had

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been visited by Mrs. Owens and her mother. The prisoner asked permission to use the telephone, and the sheriff opened the cell, and as the prisoner reached for the telephone he drew a gun and began shooting. He shot four times, two shots taking effect near Sheriff Harlow's heart. The sheriff shot once before his death, but with no effect. Dick Harlow, the sheriff's son, started to aid his father and met the escaping prisoner at the jail door, and the prisoner fired one shot, which wounded the son in the upper part of the lung. The wound is dangerous, but he may recover. The prisoner escaped and had not been seen or any trace found at last report. Owen's wife and her mother, Mrs. Linn, were arrested Tuesday and held as accomplices to Owens for the killing of the sheriff.

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